Duty evasion by drug manufacturing companies

†*288. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards massive tax/duty evasion by drug manufacturing companies in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies and total amount outstanding against such companies and the action being taken by Government for realization of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of tax/duty evasion by some drug manufacturing companies.

(b) The names of companies and total amount outstanding against each of them is indicated in Annexure††. Action as per Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder to recover the outstanding amount is being taken.

Revision of duties on Petrol

*289. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions on which the price of petrol has been revised during the course of the current calendar year;

(b) the present component of customs duty, excise duty and sales tax put together in the price, per litre, of petrol and diesel in different Metros;

(c) whether it is a fact that the component of taxes is more than the basic price of per litre of petrol; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and why this component was not reduced so as to minimize the burden on the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has reported that during the calendar year 2005, the price of petrol has been revised twice, *i.e.* on 21.6.2005 and 7.9.2005. The impact of price revision on retail sale price of petrol in 4 Metros was as under:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††[See Appendix 206 Annexure No. 10]